



Adventures in Bridge

Leaders in Bridge Entertainment and Education

www.advinbridge.com

Is It Forcing? How Forcing Is It?

© AiB

Robert S. Todd

robert@advinbridge.com

When Are We Forced to Keep Bidding? When Can the Auction End?

One of the most important aspects of partnership agreements is knowing when a bid is forcing and when a bid is non-forcing. If we make what we think is a slam try with a forcing bid and partner passes, this will be a disaster. Agreeing on which bids are forcing and how forcing they are is important!

Modern Constructive Bidding

Invitational vs. Game Forcing Rebids by Responder

- Jump Rebids after Opener shows a Balanced Hand– Invitational
 - Rebid a new suit below first bid suit usually natural and non-forcing
 - Use *New Minor Forcing* to force the auction with a good hand (Invitational+)
 - Responder's Reverse is forcing for 1-round (Invitational+)
 - Jump Shift to a lower ranking suit is usually natural, non-forcing, and invitational
- Jump Rebids in Unbalanced Auctions – Invitational
 - Rebid a new suit below first bid suit, after 1-suited by Opener, non-forcing constructive
 - Use *4th Suit Game Forcing* to force the auction with a good hand
 - Responder's Reverse is forcing for 1-round (Invitational+)
 - Jump Shift to a lower ranking suit is usually natural, non-forcing, and invitational

Competitive Bidding Auctions

First principle of competitive bidding is “Jumps in competitive bidding tend to be weak!”

Traditional Auctions

- Positive Free Bids – New suits show values
 - New Suit Forcing
 - How Forcing depends upon the level of the freebid – 1L, 2L, 3L
- Negative Doubles – competitive values, but unlimited
 - I have enough values to take some action, but no other bid looks attractive
 - Looking for a fit or a better fit
 - Usually two places to play



Non-Traditional Auctions

- Strength Showing Doubles (and Redoubles) – “Good Hand”
 - Vs. Notrump – Value-showing doubles, penalty oriented
 - X after 1NT Overcalls
 - X after 1NT Responses
 - X after 2NT Responses
 - X after 1NT Advances
 - Vs. Double – Value-showing redoubles, setting up penalty doubles
 - XX after Takeout Double by Interferer
 - XX after Negative Double by Responder
- “Negative Free Bids” – New suits competitive, non-forcing
 - Responder’s Negative Freebids
 - Advancer’s Negative Freebids
 - Vs. Opponent’s Takeout Doubles – 2L not 1L

Other Forcing and Non-Forcing Concepts

- Fast Arrival Auctions
 - Q=LR+ Auctions – 2L vs. 3L in competition, rebidding suit
 - Jumps to Game in GF Auctions – Jacoby 2NT or Splinters
- Bidding after 1NT Interference.
 - 2-Level is Competitive
 - 3-Level is Game Forcing
 - Simplesohl relay to compete – Non-Forcing
 - Doubles – “Card Showing” at 2L, Negative at 3L
- 2/1 in Competition – “Partnership Style”
 - Does Responder promise a rebid?
 - What bids by Opener are forcing?
 - What rebids by Responder are forcing?
- When are Responder’s Second Bids Forcing?
 - After a Support Double by Opener?
 - After Opener passes competition around to Responder?
 - After Opener rebids 1NT, 2NT?
 - After Opener rebids their suit?
 - After Opener makes a jump rebid?
 - After Opener bids a second suit, non-reverse?
 - After Opener’s reverse?